

up Belle Isle, or of allowing the French to fish for bait on the shores of the colony. Mr. Strachey begged us not to take what he said as coming from the Government, for he did not know their views authoritatively, but he merely stated what he believed to be the disposition of the Government upon these important subjects.

Mr. Strachey kindly favoured us with a second interview, in which he entered into the details of the foregoing questions, and obtained in writing the particulars of the duties collected on the articles imported into Newfoundland, which may be exempt under the proposed arrangement of reciprocity.

The encroachments of the French were again discussed, especially with reference to the rights of the Newfoundlanders to the exclusive fishery of the salmon brooks and rivers, from which they had expelled many of our fishermen. He stated that such an assumption was not justified by the treaties. We replied that their whole system of fishery was in direct violation of the treaties; that their use of bultowes and immense cod seines, as they were in the habit of using them, was particularly injurious to our fisheries, and not authorised by, but contrary to, the "mode of fishery" guaranteed by treaty. That the Legislature had made provision for the employment of a small steamer to protect our rights and prevent our fishermen from supplying the French bankers with bait. He said that there was no objection to that course, provided matters were prudently managed, and that he hoped by that means and the exertions of the Imperial Government, these vexed questions would be speedily, amicably, and satisfactorily settled with the French Government. According to his request Mr. Little left with him Mr. Andrews's late excellent Report on the Trade and Fisheries of the United States and the British North American Colonies, and other documents in support of our views.

Upon the subject of making St. John's a port of call, for a line of steamers running from some port in the United Kingdom, to either Canada or the United States, which we also brought under the notice of the Government, we were informed by Mr. Stracey that he had no doubt that as soon as definite arrangements were made for such a line of steamers, and they began to run permanently, the British Government would send the English mails intended for Newfoundland by them, as such a step would be of great importance to the people of the colony, and appeared not only reasonable, but highly desirable.

On the 30th July, we addressed the following letter to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, with the supplemental statement marked No. 3; and it will be seen by the tenor of these, that we placed matters in as fair and clear a light as possible, and pressed our application for a prompt and definite decision as far as we prudently could:

My Lord Duke,

Tavistock Hotel, London, 30 July 1853.

WE have the honour of transmitting to your Grace our supplemental statement of the claims of Newfoundland to responsible government, and our reply to the only two objections to the concession, which you appeared to regard with any degree of importance.

Not knowing on what facts or representations the opponents of the desired reform, connected with the local Executive, rely to support these objections, which we assume have emanated from them, and they having twice rejected in the Legislative Council, a proposition made by the House of Assembly to send delegates from both branches of the Legislature, that the question at issue between them might be fairly discussed, we have therefore embodied in our reply only such general proofs of our position as are supplied by the Journals of the Assembly, the blue books furnished by the local Executive, and our own knowledge of the affairs of the colony.

Of course, we could not be expected to meet a series of misrepresentations, with the exact nature whereof we are unacquainted, but the existence of which, we presume from the necessity the local authorities have placed themselves under, of making out some justification for the course they have adopted with reference to the repeated collisions which have taken place between the Executive and the popular branch of the Legislature.

Wide-spread public discontent and active political strife, are the natural results of a system of government resting for support on representatives directly responsible to the people, and an executive repudiating all popular control, and pursuing an arbitrary policy, subversive of the interest of the Crown and the country, with confident impunity on account of their distance from the seat of that power to which they are amenable, and whose decision they have always anticipated in their own favour, from their confidential relation to the Imperial authorities, and their consequent facility of giving a favourable colouring to their transactions.

If, therefore, evils have flown from such a source, we have no doubt that upon a full consideration of the facts, your Grace's impartial and discriminating judgment will lead you to conclude, that the faults and errors of the past—whatever they may have been—in the government of Newfoundland, and the working of its constitution, as in the neighbouring colonies, under the old regime, are rather attributable to the system, alike unnecessarily expensive to the colony, and productive of discord in the hands of unscrupulous men, who have frequently provoked resistance by the contempt with which they have treated public opinion, than to any peculiar constitution of its society, or any erroneous estimate of the value of free institutions by the people.

In conclusion, we beg to inform your Grace that, as we are desirous of leaving England in the "Lady Eglinton," which will leave Liverpool on the 18th August, and without wishing to be deemed importunate, we trust that you may have sufficient leisure to decide the case